

Message Text

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP CASC BTRA ENRG

SUBJECT: EA/PRCM WEEKLY STATUS REPORT

1. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY PETROLEUM DELEGATION
(LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

WE ARE CLOSELY MONITORING THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY (DOE'S) PLANNING FOR THE PRC PETROLEUM DELEGATION INVITED TO THE US BY DOE SECRETARY SCHLESINGER. DOE PROPOSED THAT THE CHINESE SEND 12-15 PEOPLE FOR A WEEK IN WASHINGTON AND A WEEK IN THE FIELD IN LATE FEBRUARY. THE CHINESE RESPONDED THAT THEY WISHED TO SEND 19 PEOPLE FOR 3 DAYS IN WASHINGTON AND 2 AND 1/2 WEEKS IN THE FIELD BEGINNING JANUARY 5.

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DOE HAS ACCEPTED THE CHINESE COUNTER PROPOSAL AND IS NOW WORKING WITH THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR US-CHINA TRADE TO SCHEDULE IN THE CHINESE ITINERARY REQUESTS (HOUSTON, DALLAS, NEW ORLEANS, TULSA, AND LOS ANGELES). WE ENCOURAGED NATIONAL COUNCIL PARTICIPATION PARTLY BECAUSE THEY HAD HOSTED A PETROLEUM DELEGATION THAT FOLLOWED SIMILAR ITINERARY LAST SUMMER.

THE DOE-INVITED GROUP WILL BE HEADED BY PETROLEUM VICE MINISTER SUN CHING-WEN, THE HIGHEST RANKING PRC OFFICIAL TO

VISIT WASHINGTON (THOUGH SUN WILL BE TRAVELLING IN HIS NON-GOVERNMENTAL CAPACITY AS PRESIDENT OF THE PRC PETROLEUM CORPORATION).

2. FACILITATED CODEL TO PRC (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

SENATOR LUGAR OF INDIANA HAS AGREED TO GO ON THE JANUARY FACILITATED CODEL TO THE PRC BUT SENATOR INOUE HAS NOW DROPPED OUT. THUS, THE WHITE HOUSE IS STILL SEEKING A FIFTH SENATOR TO FILL OUT THE TEN-MEMBER DELEGATION. MIKE OKSENBERG AND DICK HART MET WITH STAFF AIDES OF SOME OF THE CODEL MEMBERS NOVEMBER 30 TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE ITINERARIES WITHIN THE PRC AND THE SPECIFIC INTERESTS OF THE CONGRESSMEN.

3. PRC RESPONSE TO USLO DEMARCHE ON AMERICAN CITIZENS (CONFIDENTIAL)

WE ARE PLEASANTLY SURPRISED AT THE PRC RESPONSE IN THE CASES RAISED BY USLO WITH MFA OF THREE AMERICAN CITIZENS, WHO ARE LONG-TIME PRC RESIDENTS. THIS WAS OUR SEVENTH REQUEST ON BERTHA LIU AND, FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE CONFIDENTIAL

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CHINESE PROVIDED SOME INFORMATION (SHE IS IN PRISON BUT IN GOOD HEALTH AND THE CHINESE RECOGNIZE HER AS AN AMERICAN CITIZEN). ANOTHER OF THE THREE, A DUAL NATIONAL, IS BEING ALLOWED TO EXIT THE PRC ALONG WITH HER PRC CITIZEN HUSBAND. THE MFA OFFICIAL HINTED THAT THE THIRD, AMERICAN, WHO HAS BEEN CONFINED TO A LABOR CAMP FOR YEARS, SHOULD APPLY FOR AN EXIT PERMIT TO "VISIT" RELATIVES IN THE US. WHILE WE ARE HESITANT TO READ TOO MUCH INTO THIS SUDDEN RESPONSIVENESS, WHICH IS A SUBSTANTIAL CHANGE FROM PAST PRC PRACTICE, WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT THIS RESPONSE MAY INDICATE INCREASED CHINESE HELPFULNESS ON OTHER LONG-STANDING PROBLEMS.
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